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MONTHLY BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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LUCY WARBLER SEEN IN BERKELEY

While engaged in our daily routine check up of garden birds on Friday, October 23, 1953, at one p.m., my wife and I discovered a warbler, drinking at our fountain, which we were unable to recognize at once. Fortunately, the bird remained quietly for better than 5 minutes and moved so that we might see its characters on all sides. We were able to approach it within about 4 feet. On the following morning at about 9 a.m., the same species was again favorably observed. It was again seen on November 7 and 9 at about 8:30 a.m.; these last 3 records were at the precise station as the first and were examined with equal ease for similar lengths of time. Close search of usual sources and discussion with several interested persons, in particular Mrs. Joseph Grinnell, confirmed the proposal that our bird was the Lucy warbler.

This species is generally distributed in southwestern United States and Mexico. It breeds in parts of Arizona and Utah, and in California along the Colorado river; it has been reported as far west as Mecca. This gray-backed, white-breasted bird without wing-bars has as its field mark a distinct easily recognized chestnut rump-patch. There is a small similarly colored crown-patch, only observed by us in one specimen. The throat is white, or in one of our specimens streaked with short, dark lines. There is a narrow white eye-ring. The occurrence of this warbler is one of numerous records in recent years of vagrant warblers far from their usual habitats.

— Arthur S. Campbell.

(Dr. Campbell, Professor of Zoology at St. Mary's College, has recently prepared a mimeographed list of the birds of St. Mary's College area).

NOVEMBER TRIP TO CONN LAKE

Certainly one of our better bird trips was held at Conn Lake and vicinity on November 15. More than 50 members and guests enjoyed the fine, sunny day and the finer, sunnier birding which brought to light a total of 87 species. Due to the many telescopes present, everyone had good views of such birds as wood ducks, hooded mergansers, buffleheads, etc. Highlights of the day were a western kingbird seen by Herbert Wong, red-shouldered (red-bellied) hawk,

pacific loon, and an estimated 200 pied-billed grebes. The following birds were seen: pacific loon, eared grebe, western grebe, pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, Canada goose, mallard, gadwall, baldpate, pintail, green-winged teal, shoveller, wood duck, redhead, ring-necked duck, canvas-back, American golden-eye, bufflehead, ruddy duck, hooded merganser, American merganser, red-breasted merganser, turkey vulture, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, golden eagle, osprey, sparrow hawk, Calif. quail, coot, killdeer, Wilson snipe, spotted sandpiper, Calif. gull, ring-billed gull, Bonaparte gull, mourning dove, Anna hummingbird, belted kingfisher, red-shafted flicker, Calif. woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, downy woodpecker, Nuttall woodpecker, western kingbird, black phoebe, Say phoebe, scrub jay, raven, crow, plain titmouse, bush-tit, white-breasted nuthatch, Bewick wren, long-billed marsh wren, rock wren, mockingbird, hermit thrush, western bluebird, ruby-crowned kinglet, water pipit, cedar waxwing, loggerhead shrike, Hutton vireo, Audubon warbler, yellow-throat, house sparrow, western meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, Brewer blackbird, house finch, American goldfinch, lesser goldfinch, spotted towhee, brown towhee, savannah sparrow, lark sparrow, rufous-crowned sparrow, Oregon junco, white-crowned sparrow, golden-crowned sparrow, fox sparrow, song sparrow.

— KENNETH SCHULZ, *Leader and Historian.*

DECEMBER TRIP TO ROSS AND THE MARIN LAKES

December 13 turned out to be a mild sunny day, resulting in an attendance of around 45. After birding in Ross for a half hour or so, the group proceeded to Phoenix Lake, part by car and part on foot. No ducks were found here, only two pied-billed grebes. The hike to Lakes Lagunitas and Bon Tempe was more rewarding: 4 ring-necked ducks and 2 American golden-eyes were on Lagunitas, but about 150 ducks were on Bon Tempe, mostly mallards and ring-necks but with several hooded mergansers. A fine adult peregrine falcon (duck hawk) perched on a nearby dead tree allowed exceptional views, especially through the telescopes; a red-shouldered hawk and a pair of common loons were also here. One spotted sandpiper was seen on each of the three lakes.

Fifty-eight species were observed: common loon, western grebe, pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, mallard, ring-necked duck, canvasback, American golden-eye, ruddy duck, hooded merganser, turkey vulture, sharp-shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, peregrine falcon, sparrow hawk, coot, spotted sandpiper, gull (Calif.?), band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, Anna hummingbird, belted kingfisher, red-shafted flicker, Calif. woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, hairy woodpecker, Steller jay, scrub jay, crow, chestnut-backed chickadee, plain titmouse, bush-tit, brown creeper, wren-tit, winter wren, Bewick wren, robin, varied thrush, hermit thrush, western bluebird, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, myrtle warbler, Audubon warbler, Townsend warbler, house sparrow, purple finch, pine siskin, lesser goldfinch, spotted towhee, brown towhee, Oregon junco, white-crowned sparrow, golden-crowned sparrow, fox sparrow, song sparrow.

— A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian.*

OCTOBER TRIP TO LAKE TEMESCAL

On Saturday, October 24, about 30 members and friends finally got together at Willowbrook Camp at the upper (eastern) end of Lake Temescal Regional Park, after some confusion in finding the right entrance due to the recent construction of the freeway. A rather short bird list bereft of any sensational rarities was compensated by much leisurely observing of common birds in this local bird paradise, and by the abundant sociability and the many new friends who joined us this morning. Our most pleasant surprise of this nature was the appearance of Maurice Phelan and a ranch-wagon load of his enthusiastic students from Woodrow Wilson Jr. High School in Oakland. We also found time to mention the colorful history of Lake Temescal, which first got its name from an Indian ceremonial "sweat house", and became Oakland's first public reservoir in 1869. It was built by Anthony Chabot, donor of Chabot Observatory.

Altogether 35 species were observed: pied-billed grebe, mallard, baldpate, scaup (probably lesser), ruddy duck, red-tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, Calif. quail, coot, killdeer, mourning dove, Anna hummingbird, red-shafted flicker, downy woodpecker, black phoebe, Steller jay, scrub (Calif.) jay, chestnut-backed chickadee, plain titmouse, bush-tit, wren-tit, robin, hermit thrush, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, Audubon warbler, Brewer blackbird, purple finch, house finch, pine siskin, lesser (green-backed) goldfinch, spotted towhee, brown towhee, Oregon junco, and song sparrow.

— Paul F. Covel, *Leader and Historian.*

NOVEMBER TRIP TO BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK AND STRAWBERRY CANYON

Saturday, November 28, brought 25 members and guests to a very foggy Berkeley Aquatic Park. Although we did see 30 species, visibility was so poor we decided to try Strawberry Canyon. At the Botanical Garden we enjoyed warm sunshine. Some owl pellets were discovered and were dissected by Howard Cogswell; they were probably those of a horned owl. To support this theory a horned owl was flushed less than half a mile away. A total of 65 species was observed.

Berkeley Aquatic Park — loon (species?), eared grebe, western grebe, pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, American egret, mallard, baldpate, shoveller, scaup (species?), American golden-eye, ruddy duck, red-breasted merganser, coot, killdeer, black-bellied plover, willet, sandpiper (species?), sanderling, avocet, glaucous-winged gull, herring gull, Calif. gull, short-billed gull, Bonaparte gull, Forster tern, water pipit, house sparrow, house finch, white-crowned sparrow, song sparrow.

Strawberry Canyon — sharp-shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk, horned owl, Anna hummingbird, hummingbird (Allen or rufous), red-shafted flicker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, downy woodpecker, black phoebe, Steller jay, scrub jay, chestnut-backed chickadee, plain titmouse, bush-tit, red-breasted nuthatch, wren-tit, Bewick wren, robin, varied thrush, hermit thrush, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, Hutton vireo, Audubon warbler, Townsend warbler, purple finch, house finch, pine siskin, lesser goldfinch, spotted towhee, brown towhee, Oregon junco, white-crowned sparrow, golden-crowned sparrow, fox sparrow, song sparrow.

— Kenneth Schulz, *Leader and Historian.*

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— Kenneth Schulz, *Leader and Historian.*

OBSERVATIONS

In the OBSERVATIONS published in the November 1953 number of THE GULL, one line was omitted from the printed copies, between lines 3 and 4. It should have read "SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, Oct. 2, Middle L., Chain of Lakes (Joel Hedgpeth); STILT SANDPIPER, 3 in Alameda, Sept. 23 (Russell Pray and Junea W. Kelly); 6 on Oct. 10 (JWK);" Also the YELLOW-BREASTED SAPSUCKER should have been YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. The Editor wishes to thank Junea W. Kelly for calling this omission and error to his attention.

A male EUROPEAN WIDGEON has been seen at the Flamingo Pool at the Fleishhacker Zoo in San Francisco a number of times recently and may still be there. It was first reported by Henry Wagner on Nov. 1, was later seen by Ken Schulz on Nov. 24 and 26 (he reported it was able to fly, confirming it as a wild bird), by the Editor on Nov. 29, and by Dick Leinbach on Dec. 6. It occurred in a flock with American Widgeons (Baldpates).

FULMAR, 4 at Lands End, San Francisco, Nov. 26 (Walter Fitzpatrick); 6 at Tomales Point on Nov. 28 (Harry Adamson); BROWN PELICAN, near St. Mary's College, in heavy fog, Nov. 25 (A. S. Campbell); CANADA GOOSE, 10 flying over El Cerrito, Nov. 25 (Larry Curl); WOOD DUCK, 1 - 8 over period of 2 - 3 weeks, Lafayette, October; 3 on Dec. 14 (HA); HARLEQUIN DUCK, 1 male at Tomales Point on Nov. 28 (HA); AMERICAN SCOTER, pair at Tomales Point, Nov. 28 (HA); CALIF. CONDOR, one adult 3/4 mile SW of Lebec, Sept. 19; 4, Thorn Point Lookout, E of Ventura, Sept. 20 (HA); OSPREY, St. Mary's College, Oct. 28 (ASC); PEREGRINE FALCON, Tomales Point, Nov. 28 (HA); SANDHILL CRANE, 12 at Grey Lodge Refuge, Gridley, Nov. 7 (HA); VIRGINIA RAIL, 2 at Grey Lodge Refuge on Nov. 7 (HA); FLORIDA GALLINULES, 3 at Princeton on Nov. 8, 1 at Olema Marsh on Nov. 28 (HA); WANDERING TATTLER, Dumbarton Bridge, Oct. 11 (HA); NORTHERN PHALAROPES, pool along road near Berkeley Dump, Oct. 29 to Nov. 23 (Russell Pray); RED PHALAROPES, same place, Oct. 29 to Nov. 26 (RP); WHITE-THROATED SWIFT, 40, Mt. Diablo, Nov. 22 (HA); 25, same place, Nov. 28 - 29 (Carlyle Sather); BELTED KINGFISHER, several at St. Mary's College, Oct. 1 (ASC); SAY PHOEBE, St. Mary's College, Oct. 21 (ASC); CROW, 37 flying north over Lafayette, Oct. 15 (HA); WATER PIPIT, small flock, St. Mary's College, Sept. 25 (ASC); BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, garden on Franklin St., San Francisco, Oct. 22, Geo. T. Kilham; SLATE-COLORED JUNCO, Nov. 19 to Dec. 14, Lafayette (HA); WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, Lafayette Square, San Francisco, Oct. 25 (GTK); one banded 21 times between Oct. 27 and Nov. 21, Larkspur, Anna M. Smith; LINCOLN SPARROW, Lafayette, Dec. 9 (HA).

The October 1953 number of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES has an article "Christmas Count Totals from North America 1949-1952", by Frank A. Scott, our Educational Committee Chairman. Also in this issue are the 17 regional reports of the nesting season, the reporter for the Middle Pacific Coast Region being Russell H. Pray of Berkeley. Other numbers of Audubon Field Notes cover the winter, spring and fall seasons, the winter bird population study, the breeding-bird census, and the Christmas bird count. This magazine is published by the National Audubon Society in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and merits the support of all serious bird students. Subscription to this magazine ($2.00 per year) especially helps support the publication of the Christmas bird counts, 456 of which were included this year.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF GOLDEN GATE PARK has been organized by Roy Flamm and Jack Hillmer. Anyone interested in preserving the woodland quality of our city parks is urged to attend the meetings which are usually on the fourth Wednesday evening. The address is 100 Upper Terrace, Zone 17. Phone Overland 1-2235.

Among the new officers elected at the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Los Angeles last October are: Alden H. Miller, President; Charles G. Sibley, Treasurer; and Robert W. Storer, Editor.

The annual meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society in 1954 has been set for April 22 to 24 at Tucson, Arizona. Here is a good chance to combine an expedition to the Chiricahuas and Huachucas with attendance at this meeting.

Word has been received from the Sierra Club that Secretary of the Interior McKay has just recommended to President Eisenhower the construction of Echo Park Dam in Dinosaur National Monument, thereby rejecting the alternate sites that will spare this area which many believe worthy of National Park status. The Sierra Club urges conservationists to protest by wiring or writing President Eisenhower.

The July-August number of THE CONDOR had an article by Gordon W. Gullion, formerly of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California, "Territorial Behavior of the American Coot". Studies were based mostly on Jewel Lake and Lake Temescal. An interesting point is that winter core areas are protected by resident coots in California, having the apparent function of maintaining the pair bond and providing the permanent pairs with a secure area in which to begin nesting activity early in the season. In the same number is a note by Dr. Alden H. Miller, head of the MVZ, in which he discovered that the incubation period of the Hutton vireo is 16 days, an unusually long period for a vireo. Also in this issue Ken Legg reported the third record of the tropical kingbird *(Tyrannus melancholius)* in California, at Point Lobos Reserve. Mr. Legg has recently been transferred to Natural Bridges Beach State Park near Santa Cruz.

In the September-October number of THE CONDOR was a note "Wintering Palm Warbler in Berkeley, Calif.", by David W. Johnston. Also in this number was a note by Dr. Charles Sibley, formerly of San Jose State College and now at Cornell, "Forster Terns Breeding in San Francisco Bay, California."

Three colonies were found, one near the east end of the San Mateo Bridge, one near the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge, and the third near Plummer's Landing.

SUNSET MAGAZINE on page 9 of the December issue has a short article about the annual Audubon Christmas count (reported by Blanche Wallace).

Numerous new books have as usual been published shortly before the Christmas season. One of these is "Birds of Washington State", by Stanley A. Jewett, Walter P. Taylor, William T. Shaw, and John W. Aldrich, published by the University of Washington Press at $8.00.

At the December Meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the chairman of the Nominating Committee, Arthur Myer, announced the following nominations for 1954 officers: President, Dorothy Dean Scott; First Vice-President, Howard Cogswell; Second Vice-President, A. Laurence Curl; Treasurer, Harold G. Peterson; Recording Secretary, Blanche Wallace; Corresponding Secretary, Alice Leet; Directors, Herbert Wong, Edward Mayers, and Dr. Albert Boles.

JANUARY MEETING

The 37th annual and 436th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on January 14 in the West Auditorium of the Oakland Public Library, Oak and 14th Streets, at 7:30 p.m. Following the business of the annual meeting, C. A. "Bert" Harwell will show his new film, "Exploring for Cranes". No-host dinner at Zerikote's by Lake Merritt at six o'clock.

— DOROTHY DEAN SCOTT, *Program Chairman.*

JANUARY TRIP TO TOMALES BAY

On Sunday, January 17, to Tomales Bay and vicinity, in particular to Tomales Point if the weather permits. This is a joint trip with the recently organized Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. Meet at the hotel in Pt. Reyes Station at 9:15 a.m. From San Francisco take 7:35 bus to Pt. Reyes Station. On this trip in the past we have usually seen harlequin ducks, black oyster-catchers, black brant and peregrine falcons; fulmars, American scoters, red-necked grebes and other rarities are sometimes seen. Leader, Harry Adamson, Lafayette 2164. Bring lunch, warm drink, warm clothing, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends.

JANUARY TRIP TO LAKE MERRITT

On Saturday, January 23, to Lake Merritt in Oakland. Here is a good chance to observe many species of water birds at close range in this area which has been a sanctuary for a long time. There will also be an opportunity to visit the new Rotary Science Building (the Brighton C. "Bugs" Cain Memorial) nearby. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the bird feeding station. From San Francisco take "B" train and get off at Perkins St. and Grand Av. Leader, Paul Covel, Oakland Park Naturalist, TE. 2-3600, Ext. 598. Bring lunch if desired, binoculars, telescopes, and interested friends.

— ALBERT BOLES, *Acting Field Trips Chairman.*

SCREEN TOUR LECTURE — The third in the series will be held on Tuesday, January 19; speaker, Cleveland P. Grant, "Wildlife of Marsh and Mountain", at the Berkeley High School Little Theatre at 8:00 p.m.